

The Role of Ecological Culture and Education in Environmental Protection

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Received: 24 March 2025; **Accepted:** 20 April 2025; **Published:** 22 May 2025

Abstract: The article provides information on important aspects of ecology, ecology and environmental protection, nature conservation, development of, ecological culture of youth in the formation of national education of youth in the context of globalization.

Keywords: National education, ecology, ecological consciousness, ecological culture, globalization, method, civilization, Avesta, hadith.

Introduction: Ensuring human health and ecological stability is impossible without the rational use of natural resources, the protection of the environment based on scientific principles, and the implementation of practical methods. Without enhancing young people's ecological knowledge and culture, sustainable environmental management cannot be achieved. A comprehensive understanding of ecology and environmental protection, the dialectical interrelation between society and nature, the root causes of ecological issues, and effective strategies for their resolution—along with fostering international cooperation in this field—play a crucial role in shaping and improving a sustainable and healthy lifestyle. In this regard, environmental protection and human health must be ensured through the development of ecological education, which holds paramount importance.

The intensification of ecological issues on a global scale has necessitated their prevention and the maintenance of a stable environment as a priority task for all nations. The increasing globalization of environmental concerns in the new millennium has had dual effects: on the one hand, it has contributed to mitigating ecological crises; on the other hand, it has negatively impacted human health, led to biodiversity loss, and exacerbated air pollution. The integration of international cooperation underscores the necessity of strengthening ecological education and training as an essential measure for achieving environmental sustainability.

Ecological issues influence social development and, more importantly, pose significant risks to human health. Therefore, it is crucial to instill ecological cultural values in younger generations from early childhood. The global expansion of ecological concerns necessitates a reassessment of the educational mechanisms that foster ecological awareness. The development of ecological education is a gradual process throughout an individual's life. However, the mere accumulation of personal experiences is insufficient for attaining a high level of ecological culture. This is because individuals typically acquire only minimal practical ecological skills through daily activities, while a deeper understanding and refinement of these skills occur primarily through structured ecological education and training. Consequently, establishing comprehensive ecological education programs for young people has become a critical requirement of our time.

Humanity's relationship with the environment in the new millennium differs fundamentally from previous eras. From the dawn of human civilization until the early 20th century, ecological interactions were largely understood within the context of direct relationships between humans and nature. However, since the mid-20th century, a radical shift has occurred in ecological attitudes. Contemporary ecological relationships now extend beyond individual and environmental interests to encompass the collective interests of various groups, states, and international confederations. This

transformation underscores the growing need for modern educational mechanisms that enhance ecological culture. Today's ecological education begins in the family, where children develop an environmental worldview, which is later reinforced through formal education institutions.

The primary objective of ecological culture is to elevate environmental awareness among the public and to establish legal and civic principles for sustainable natural resource utilization. In addition to governmental oversight, strengthening public control over environmental protection is essential. Furthermore, fostering a deep love and respect for nature within society, encouraging conservation efforts, and ensuring the preservation of natural resources for future generations are key elements of ecological education. The core meaning of ecological education lies in understanding the intrinsic connection between nature and society and applying natural and social laws to real-world scenarios. Ecological education and training guide individuals to use nature consciously, nurture traditional values that emphasize respect for the environment, and cultivate habits that support environmental conservation and sustainability.

A well-rounded ecological education fosters an informed individual who understands natural resources, uses them efficiently, contributes to environmental preservation, and integrates social and natural laws into daily life. Every nation and society must reassess their approaches to ecology and environmental protection. This includes considering the human factor in ecological issues, understanding the role of individuals in nature and society, defining responsibilities and obligations, and examining the development of cultural consciousness and social activism. It is also necessary to evaluate the consequences of human-environment interactions and their long-term impact.

In his work *Uzbekistan at the Threshold of the 21st Century: Threats to Security, Conditions for Stability, and Guarantees of Development*, former President Islam Karimov emphasized the growing severity of environmental threats and their negative effects on fauna, flora, and social life. He highlighted that the geopolitical landscape of the world is changing, making it imperative to regulate human impact on the biosphere, harmonize social progress with environmental stability, and establish equilibrium in human-nature interactions.

One of the key priorities of state environmental policy is to ensure a clean, healthy, and safe environment for future generations. As a result, increasing ecological awareness among young people and modernizing

ecological education mechanisms have become pressing issues. It is impossible to develop ecological culture without enhancing environmental education and training.

Targeted ecological education initiatives play a crucial role in enhancing young people's ecological knowledge and fostering responsible attitudes toward nature. Developing ecological culture among the youth and nurturing them into well-rounded individuals is a priority of national youth policy, supported by both theoretical and practical frameworks. During the initial phase of Uzbekistan's reform agenda, special attention was given to establishing the legal foundations of state environmental policy, as building a democratic legal state necessitates the adoption of environmental legislation that aligns with ecological realities.

The goal of ecological education is to integrate human and environmental interests, raise ecological awareness, and cultivate ecological responsibility and culture among students. The fundamental purpose of ecological training is to instill a sense of accountability toward the environment by providing students with a comprehensive system of scientific knowledge, perspectives, and ethical beliefs. Another essential aspect of ecological education is the promotion of an environmentally conscious worldview. Achieving this requires individuals to engage in continuous self-improvement, explore the mysteries of nature, and actively expand their ecological knowledge.

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